



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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## Four-State 9-1-1 Confab a Success

By Chuck Lee [cllee@midrivers.com](mailto:cllee@midrivers.com)

An informal gathering of 9-1-1 leaders from four states met in Bowman, North Dakota on March 14 to discuss 9-1-1 and dispatch issues among bordering dispatch communities covered by the Fallon County Dispatch Center in Baker, MT. States represented were: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The meeting went from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and 29 people were in attendance. Participants represented the disciplines of Sheriff, Dispatcher, Fire Chief, GIS, 9-1-1 Coordinator, Radio Tech and DES Coordinator. State of Montana Public Safety Services Bureau employees, Monica Ness and Ryan Olson also were in attendance. This group had a very diverse background, but all brought something to the table. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Mutual Aid, update fire information prior to this fire season, review dispatch procedures, and to discuss common problems everyone shares since they all share a border with the Fallon County Dispatch Center.

Everyone in attendance felt that the time spent was helpful, and requested to meet again next year for the same purpose.

## I-15/90 Corridor Consortium Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The I-15/90 Corridor Interoperability Consortium met Thurs., March 20, at the Butte Chamber of Commerce. Tom Dunne, Dunne Communications, reported that the radios ordered through the FEMA Assistance to Fire Fighters grant have already arrived as well as the repeaters. He will be working with county fire chiefs on final distribution and programming. Every radio now has an identity, just like a cell phone. Therefore, it is critical to document where each individual radio is assigned in order to allow for future re-programming. The radio warranty begins in 45 days after receipt.

Wing Spooner, PSSB, was asked to report on the status of the State security plan. State matching monies for various grants cannot be released until the security plan is complete. The IMPD will be reviewing a draft at its April 1 meeting, and the plan should be ready by mid-April. It then has to be approved by the State of Montana's Chief Information Officer, Dick Clark.

Bob McWilliams, Beaverhead County, reported that he is working on the south ring upgrade. Harris-Stratex is working on preliminary shots, and the paperwork is underway for all the sites. The Maurer, KONA, Sawtell and Sierra sites are expected to be completed this year. The other three sites, which are green sites, are expected to be built out in the summer of 2009. I-15/90 consortium frequencies with the FCC are still pending. Follow-up work at Red Mountain was discussed, such as grounding and the ice bridge installation.

Project Director Dave McPherson updated the group about the last IM Project Directors meeting. Member also discussed mobile data issues. The next consortium meeting will begin at 10:00 am at the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St., on Thurs., April 17.

## Operation Stonegarden Coordination Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Nine jurisdictions attended a special coordination meeting in Havre on Wed., March 19 to discuss the Operation Stonegarden grant. The purpose of this Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) grant is to enhance law enforcement preparedness and operational readiness along the land borders of the United States. A one-time appropriation of \$60 million allows local units of government at the county level to apply through the State Administration Agency (SAA). In Montana, the SAA is Disaster and Emergency Services (DES). DHS expects to make 15 awards.

Public Safety Services Bureau personnel, Pete Mohan and Wing Spooner, are working with retired state employee and grant writer, Jim Oppedahl, to coordinate the needs of Montana's 11 border counties and collaborate on regional interoperable communications needs that meet the operational requirements of both the county and the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or Border Patrol. Each county will work closely with its nearest CBP/Border Patrol to submit a draft Operations Order with the application.

The meeting was very useful in clarifying grant requirements and identifying regional needs. PSSB thanks everyone who attended. We are hopeful that with Jim Oppedahl's expertise, Montana's application will be favorably received. The grant award announcement is expected by July 31, 2008.



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## IM Retreat Update

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The IM Project is hosting a retreat at the end of the Governor's Emergency Preparedness Summit on April 24 and 25 at the Holiday Inn in Billings. County Commissioners, fire chiefs and other opinion leaders are encouraged to attend. National Governor's Association facilitators will assist with the retreat.

Here is the website link for the Summit registration: <http://eu.montana.edu/preparedness/>. Currently, the website only allows you to register if also registering for the Summit, but this will be changing. To register for both the Summit and the IM Retreat, click on the link above and select "Register Online." Select the "Full Conference \$100" button or one of the "Pre-Conference Monday ONLY" buttons. Press "Continue." Fill in your conference registration information and press "Continue." Select each agenda item that you plan to attend. Select the Interoperability Montana Retreat buttons beginning at noon on Thursday, April 24 and again on Friday, April 25. Friday's session will end mid-afternoon.

Once again, the website will be updated soon so that you may register for the IM Retreat, which is free, without also registering for the Summit. Thanks in advance for your patience.

## Upcoming Meetings

### March 24

IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Meeting  
Helena • 10:00 am  
Room 152, State Capitol

### March 25

Western Interoperability Consortium (WICC)  
Hamilton • 10:00 am  
Ravalli County Courthouse, 205 Bedford

### March 26

Eastern Tier Consortium (ETIC)  
Miles City • 10:00 am  
4-H Building, Custer County Fairgrounds  
Old Highway 10

### March 27

Big Sky 11 Consortium  
Billings • 10:00 am • Location to be announced

### March 31

IM Finance Sub-Committee  
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon  
Northrop Grumman Offices, 2401 Colonial Drive

### IM Governance Committee

Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm  
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### April 1

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
State Capitol Room 172

### April 2

Fleet Mapping Sub-Committee  
Helena • 9:00 am  
Law Enforcement Center, 221 Breckenridge

### April 2 (Tentative)

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)  
Great Falls • 10:00 am  
Wheat Building; 750 6th Street SW

### April 3

Northern Tier (NTIP)  
Havre • 9:00 am  
Great Northern Inn, 1345 1<sup>st</sup> St.

### April 15-16

Western Border Interoperability Working Group Mtg.  
Lethbridge, Alberta

### April 17

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am  
Chamber of Commerce Conf. Rm.; 1000 George St.

### April 21-24

Governor's Emergency Preparedness Conference  
Billings • Holiday Inn  
Register at: <http://eu.montana.edu/preparedness/>

### April 24-25

Interoperability Montana (IM) Retreat  
Billings • Holiday Inn

### May 14 (w/ possible April conference call)

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)  
Ennis • 10:00 am  
First Madison Valley Bank

### June 11

Statewide Interoperable Executive Council (SIEC)  
Helena • 10:00 am  
Location to be announced

